

The Halyard

Virginia Department of Education
Office of Educational Technology

February 3, 2006



Charlie's Chatter

You guys are great! I have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations and the laughter that has been generated by my question about what's in a name. I think my favorites were 'Library Goddess' and 'Her Royal Highness Library Lady'. The debate continues on a national level as we seek to gain recognition for our contributions to education. Someone asked me does it really matter what we are called? My response is that yes, it does matter but consistency matters more. If we as a profession are struggling with the name, how are we ever going to convince others about our role in educating our students? I hope that the discussion will continue and I will continue to share insights as I read about them on a national level.

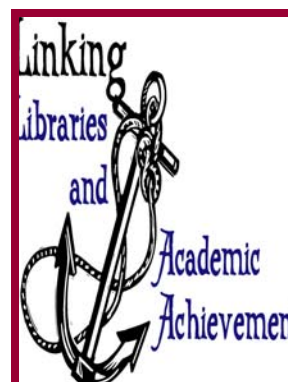
I learned a valuable lesson about 'saving' and back-ups on Tuesday. When I arrived at work, I learned that the building was being shut down due to a major power problem. I was not allowed to go to my office; in fact we were given five minutes to clear the building before it would go 'dark'. Panic mode set in promptly when I remembered that my laptop was upstairs and I had a presentation to do for a PTO meeting that night and all of my materials were on the laptop and my notes (including directions to the site) were in a folder on my desk! On my way home, I had a flash of memory! I had saved the presentation to a pocket drive! So I called the school division, asked for a loaner computer and was able to

give the presentation as planned. Moral of the story: always keep a backup of your files in a place away from the office and your laptop!

I will be meeting with the representatives of Thomson Gale next week. If you have any concerns about the databases, please email me and I will share them with the sales representatives. I will also have the pleasure of being in Alexandria on February 3, and can't wait to see many old friends and make some new ones along the way.

Vocabulary word and humor for the day:

FLASHLIGHT: a tubular metal container used on shipboard for storing dead batteries prior to



<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml>

How
To Love
Your
Library

The Halyard is looking for ways to encourage the love of reading!

Send your suggestions in to be included in a special Valentine's edition of the Halyard!

Take pictures of your students and faculty reading and send them to me for inclusion in this Celebration of Reading.

Email your pictures and suggestions to
Charlie.Makela@doe.virginia.gov

What's In A Name? Your thoughts.....

There have been many wonderful comments and postings concerning the question about what is an appropriate title for our profession. This is a sampling of what has been said —Enjoy!

Just found the 1960 standards (not! from my library school days, I might add); great paragraph, p. 13. "A school library does not have to change its name to embrace new materials and new uses of all types of materials any more than a school has to call itself by some other name to indicate that it is a continuously growing social institution. Services, not words, portray the image of the school library." It's always good to go back to our roots. Eloise M. Long, Ed.D
Chair
Dept of Library Science/Instructional

Hear! Hear! I agree in all particulars!! I have been a librarian for MANY years. I have always found it an unfortunate set of events that caused our name to be changed when audio-visual and then IT equipment and services appeared on the scene. As far as I am concerned, the word "librarian" has always included all the resources necessary to do the job, regardless of format, shape, or size. I can easily accommodate A-V and IT into my definition of my work and profession. I didn't need a new "term" to reflect what I did then, nor what I do now. Actually, from my experience, the "media specialist" term has caused much more confusion than clarification, both within the profession and the school systems. Becky Ferrall
Gar-Field Senior High School

For someone who has been in the profession for a while, this naming discussion comes up every few years. I am in total agreement with Lanelle Hilling. I am a librarian. I went to library school, I have a Masters of Library Science and I work in a library. I always regret that VEMA doesn't have "Librarian" as a membership category. I write it in every year but they continue to refer to me as a media specialist... which I am not. Julie Lahann
Pennington School Librarian

This is a response to Charlie's question in this week's Halyard, "Who are you? Does [our job title] really matter? Yes, I do think our name matters. It contributes to our image and unfortunately, we live in an image-driven society. While

changing our name will not change the job we do, it will change students', parents', and even teachers' perception of us. I believe the word "media" is outdated and associated with the television and A/V era, which is almost history. While librarians are fully involved in, and crucial to, the digital age, our title is stuck in the past, when librarians were neither technology/internet experts nor collaborative teachers. I strongly recommend changing our name to either Teacher Librarian or Library Information Specialist -- anything but Library Media Specialist. Clover Taylor, Library Information Specialist
Western Albemarle High School

The ironic thing about this whole debate is that as an elementary librarian, I spent 90 percent of my time teaching. The school was large, 840 students, and I, as so many others are, was one of the planning times for the classroom teachers, and had sole responsibility for their classes during that time. If that is not a teacher, I don't know what is. Sandy Shuman, retired
Culpeper County

I think my Kindergartners have it correct....they call me Miss Library Teacher. For the record I never have or will refer to myself as a Media Specialist. I am a librarian who went to Library School and earned a Masters of Library Science! J. Lanelle Hilling
Librarian
P. B. Smith

I totally agree with Clover. For us, in our school capacity, it seems that Teacher Librarian is the better title. On the other hand, in the private sector, the title--Library Information Specialist--is the better title. Adrian Stevens
(astevens@glnd.k12.va.us)
Library Media Specialist
Byrd Elementary School

A rose by any other name.... I was a Home Economics teacher before I became a librarian. Oh, then I was called a Life Skills teacher, if I can remember it correctly. Then it was Work and Family Studies and now it is Family and Consumer Sciences. I found it confusing to the public and embarrassing that we as a profession couldn't agree to a name. Yes, our job has changed. So has my brother-

in-law's, the farmer who now needs to be proficient in chemistry and computers. But he is still a farmer. I like the title librarian, no matter how the job has changed. Emily Anderson

I agree with Emily....
Millie Warren
Librarian
Phoebus High School

This is such a good topic. I remained a librarian throughout the media specialist craze and continue to call my workspace the library. The name is not that important to me. What is important is that my peers recognize what I do. The only way to change the perception of the position is to constantly demonstrate our all-around abilities and never turn our backs on the opportunity to advocate for ourselves. Helping just one patron can speak more volumes than any job title on a piece of letterhead. That said, I prefer Information Consultant, but will answer to just about anything! Have a great day. Vicki King, Librarian
Beverly Manor Middle

I wish that was all I needed to worry about was whether I was called librarian or media specialist. However at this point in my life that is too simple and senseless for me to worry about. My plate has main entrees on it and I don't have time to worry about a dessert J Cynthia Jeffress
Park Avenue Elementary

This is my first year as a librarian. At Longwood, the professors use the LMS term a lot. It was not my favorite, but I thought that was the "new lingo" so I had that put on my school badge. I am glad to hear that so many people like Librarian or Teacher Librarian. The kids call me Library Teacher and I like that the best! Paula Joseph
Teacher Librarian

How about Library Instructional Specialist or Librarian Instructional Specialist? Kathleen S. Calder
MS Librarian
South County Secondary School

My students call me the Library Goddess -- I'm good with that.

I prefer Royal Highness Library Lady

Susan Williams

"AMS Resourceress"

Appomattox Middle School

My bachelor's degree from 1979 says, "Educational Media." My Masters from 1980 says, "Educational Media." I am currently doing television production as a "Media Production Specialist." It is interesting to me that everyone who desires to be called a "teacher" gets so upset when they are evaluated as "a teacher." I'm just glad they call me - on pay day to pick up my check. I love what I do so for me it's the job we do, not what we are called while we are doing it. I still think "lye berries" should be picked off a "lye berry" tree.

Johnnie Draughon

Media Production Specialist

Landstown High School and

Having worked in one of our bordering states, they like other states have a different title for certification/license purposes than Virginia does. The name is that of "media coordinator" so our neighbor has one more name to wear than we do. That name causes some confusion since it sounds like a central office supervisor. Deep down, I do prefer "librarian" and even more precise "school librarian" as it defines me even more since there are various librarians in our world. To kids we are librarian and "library teacher" and librarian to their parents for the most part.....in my opinion that is the reality as far as name. I also like but don't hear or see the title "library specialist" much. And..... I don't mind "library media specialist" for being on the up AND up and "HIP" :-)

Robert Joyce

School Librarian/Library Media Specialist
Pittsylvania County

In my third year as a librarian thanks to the Hampton City Schools-Longwood consortium. Yea! My badge says Library Media Specialist My students call me the "li-berry-ian" or "li-berry teacher". I count myself blessed and answer to all three!

Melody Black

Cary Elem School

Hampton, VA

I'm a school librarian when anyone "on the street" asks what I do. At school, I'm the librarian or the library teacher. I've never liked media specialist or library media specialist. Why take nine syllables when four will do?

Emily Willis, Librarian

Culpeper Middle School

I am a first year LMS. I taught for 13 years before this year as an elementary school classroom teacher. It made my month, my day and my year when a kindergartner

hugged me the second week of school and said, "Thank you for teaching me, Library Teacher." I'd be proud to go by that title from now on, even though we went by Library Media Specialist as the referral while earning our graduate degree.

Mary Lanoue

Library Teacher

Rockingham County, VA

One personal opinion. . .

We are teacher librarians. We serve our students at all times. However, in this age of collaboration and in the spirit of INFORMATION POWER, many of us find ourselves in various additional roles:

- serving on instructional committees
- planning lessons with teachers
- visiting classrooms to teach various lesson segments
- instructing faculty and staff on information topics
- working with technology teachers
- addressing the PTA
- and the list goes on,

but these activities only build on what we already do. We serve as school librarians, we are in educational settings, we teach. The phrase WE TEACH THE CHILDREN can be claimed by librarians as well as teachers

in the state of Virginia. It can be amplified by school librarians because WE TEACH THE CHILDREN (AND THE GROWN-UPS, TOO).

Also, in light of the fact that many of us hold one or more teaching degrees, it seems only appropriate to be called teacher librarians, for that is what we do. We are not the depository of media.

Clare Tomasch, Librarian

Mercer Middle School

I have not been in the profession all that long - my fifth year. However, when I became a librarian, a very learned friend of mine (an historian for one of the buildings in D.C.) told me that he'd pay me \$5.00 a week to refer to myself as a librarian and the place where I worked a library. He thought all other titles beneath the dignity of what I was about to do. I put it out there as a possibility for raising funds for those of us who can always use more resources.

Casey Suddarth

Librarian

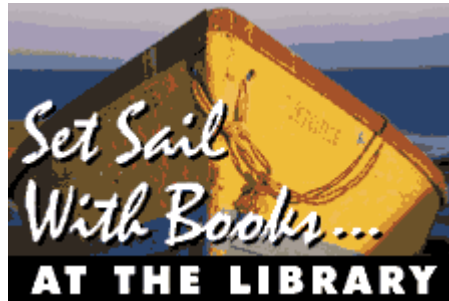
Beville Middle School

Talk about mixed messages! Check out these recent portrayals of librarians.



Virginia Department of Education Office of Educational Technology

101 North 14th Street Richmond VA 23219 E-mail: Charlie.Makela@doe.virginia.gov Phone 804-786-9412 Fax: 804-371-2455



We can not control the wind, but we can adjust the sails

Web Ex –Professional Development At Your Desk

The Virginia Department of Education is now offering a variety of professional development opportunities via a Internet browser-based application called Web Ex. Web Ex does not require any software to be installed on the desktop. The only requirements are an Internet connection and speakers connected to the computer to hear the audio portions of the sessions.

Many of the sessions are pre-recorded allowing flexibility for the convenience of busy educators. Joyce Faye White has been working with many educational vendors to preview products or to provide in-service opportunities.

To learn what is available, go to <https://vadoe.webex.com/vadoe/mywebex/default.php?Rnd9217=0.19804940909363255> and click on the training schedule. If you wish to view a previously recorded session, click on the link on the left column-recorded session and then select the program you wish to view.

Often a presentation will be a live session which requires registration and a email confirmation providing directions for participation. Registration information will be included in the announcement of the activity.

Currently, sessions on Big6Turbo Tools, netTrekker, and SOL blue-prints are available for viewing.

Big6TurboTools

Kevin Dibb, regional sales manager for Big6Turbo Tools has recorded an 40 minute overview of the online resource, Big6TurboTools. During the session, he provides an overview of the Big 6 information literacy model. He also demonstrates the many features of the product.

This session was pre-recorded and is available to be viewed at any time, simply by going to <https://vadoe.webex.com/vadoe/mywebex/default.php?Rnd9217=0.19804940909363255> and clicking on view.

